

Biden administration to boost vaccine supply next week

By JONATHAN DREW
Associated Press

The Biden administration is giving states an approximately 17% boost in vaccine next week following complaints around the U.S. of shortages so severe that some vaccination sites had to cancel tens of thousands of appointments with people waiting for their first shot. Detailed figures posted on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website Tuesday showed that the government plans to make about 10.1 million first and second doses available next week, up from this week's allotment of 8.6 million. The figures represent doses of both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. The increase comes as vaccination sites around the U.S. are canceling large numbers of appointments because of vaccine shortages. Governors and top health officials have complained about inadequate supplies and the need for earlier and more reliable estimates of how much is on the way so that they can plan accordingly. Amid the rising frustration, the Biden White House scheduled its first virus-related call with the nation's governors Tuesday. President Joe Biden planned to give an update on efforts to bolster the vaccine supply and put more shots into Americans' arms more quickly, press secretary Jen Psaki said.

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In this Jan. 21, 2021, file photo, people who had appointments to get COVID-19 vaccinations talk to New York City health care workers outside a closed vaccine hub in the Brooklyn borough of New York after they were told to come back in a week due to a shortage of vaccines.

Associated Press



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Biden administration to boost vaccine supply next week

Continued from Front

The administration has also promised more openness and said it will hold news briefings three times a week about the outbreak that has killed over 420,000 Americans.

The setup inherited from the Trump administration has been marked by miscommunication and unexplained bottlenecks, with shortages reported in some places even as vaccine doses remain on the shelf. Dr. Rochelle Walensky, Biden's brand-new director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, was herself flummoxed over the weekend in trying to describe current supplies. "I can't tell you how much vaccine we have," she told "Fox News Sunday," describing the problem as a challenge left by the outgoing Trump administration. "And if I can't tell it to you, then I can't tell it to the governors, and I can't tell it to the state health officials." On Monday, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said the state is "at the mercy of what the federal government sends us" and can't meet growing demand from residents.

Officials in West Virginia, which has had one of the best rates of administering vaccine, said they have fewer than 11,000 first doses



In this Jan. 24, 2021, file photo, Dr. John Corman, the chief clinical officer for Virginia Mason Franciscan Health, holds a sign that reads "Need Vaccine" to signal workers to bring him more doses of the Pfizer vaccine for COVID-19 as he works at a one-day vaccination clinic set up in an Amazon.com facility in Seattle.

es on hand even after this week's shipment.

"I'm screaming my head off" for more, Republican Gov. Jim Justice said.

The weekly allocation cycle for first doses begins on Monday nights, when federal officials review data on vaccine availability from manufacturers to determine how much each state can have. Allocations are based on each jurisdiction's population of people 18 and older.

States are notified on Tues-

days of their allocations through a computer network called Tiberius and other channels, after which they can specify where they want doses shipped. Deliveries start the following Monday.

A similar but separate process for ordering second doses, which must be given three to four weeks after the first, begins each week on Sunday night.

As of Tuesday afternoon, the CDC reported that just over half of the 44 million

doses distributed to states have been put in people's arms. That is well short of the hundreds of millions of doses that experts say will need to be administered to achieve herd immunity and conquer the outbreak. The U.S. ranks fifth in the world in the number of doses administered relative to the country's population, behind No. 1 Israel, United Arab Emirates, Britain and Bahrain, according to the University of Oxford.

The reason more of the

available shots in the U.S. haven't been dispensed isn't entirely clear. But many vaccination sites are apparently holding large quantities of vaccine in reserve to make sure people who have already gotten their first shot receive the required second one on schedule.

Also, some state officials have complained of a lag between when they report their vaccination numbers to the government and when the figures are posted on the CDC website.

In the New Orleans area, Ochsner Health said Monday that inadequate supply forced the cancellation last week of 21,400 first-dose appointments but that second-dose appointments aren't affected.

In North Carolina, Greensboro-based Cone Health announced it is canceling first-dose appointments for 10,000 people and moving them to a waiting list because of supply problems. Jesse Williams, 81, of Reidsville, North Carolina, said his appointment Thursday with Cone Health was scratched, and he is waiting to hear when it might be rescheduled. The former volunteer firefighter had hoped the vaccine would enable him to resume attending church, playing golf and seeing friends. □

Associated Press

Judge bars Biden from enforcing 100-day deportation ban



In this July 31, 2019, file photo, migrants return to Mexico, using the Puerta Mexico bridge that crosses the Rio Grande river in Matamoros, Mexico, on the border with Brownsville, Texas.

Associated Press

By NOMAAN MERCHANT
Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — A federal judge on Tuesday barred

the U.S. government from enforcing a 100-day deportation moratorium that is a key immigration priority of

President Joe Biden. U.S. District Judge Drew Tipton issued a temporary restraining order sought by Texas, which sued on Friday against a Department of Homeland Security memo that instructed immigration agencies to pause most deportations. Tipton said the Biden administration had failed "to provide any concrete, reasonable justification for a 100-day pause on deportations."

Tipton's order is an early blow to the Biden administration, which has proposed far-reaching changes sought by immigration advocates, including a plan to legalize an estimated 11 million immigrants

living in the U.S. illegally. Biden promised during his campaign to pause most deportations for 100 days. The order represents a victory for Texas' Republican leaders, who often sued to stop programs enacted by Biden's Democratic predecessor, President Barack Obama. It also showed that just as Democratic-led states and immigration groups fought former President Donald Trump over immigration in court, often successfully, so too will Republicans with Biden in office. David Pekoske, the acting Homeland Security secretary, signed a memo on Biden's first day directing immigration authorities

to focus on national security and public safety threats as well as anyone apprehended entering the U.S. illegally after Nov. 1. That was a reversal from Trump administration policy that made anyone in the U.S. illegally a priority for deportation. The 100-day moratorium went into effect Friday and applied to almost anyone who entered the U.S. without authorization before November. Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton argued that the moratorium violated federal law as well as an agreement Texas signed with the Department of Homeland Security late in the Trump administration. □

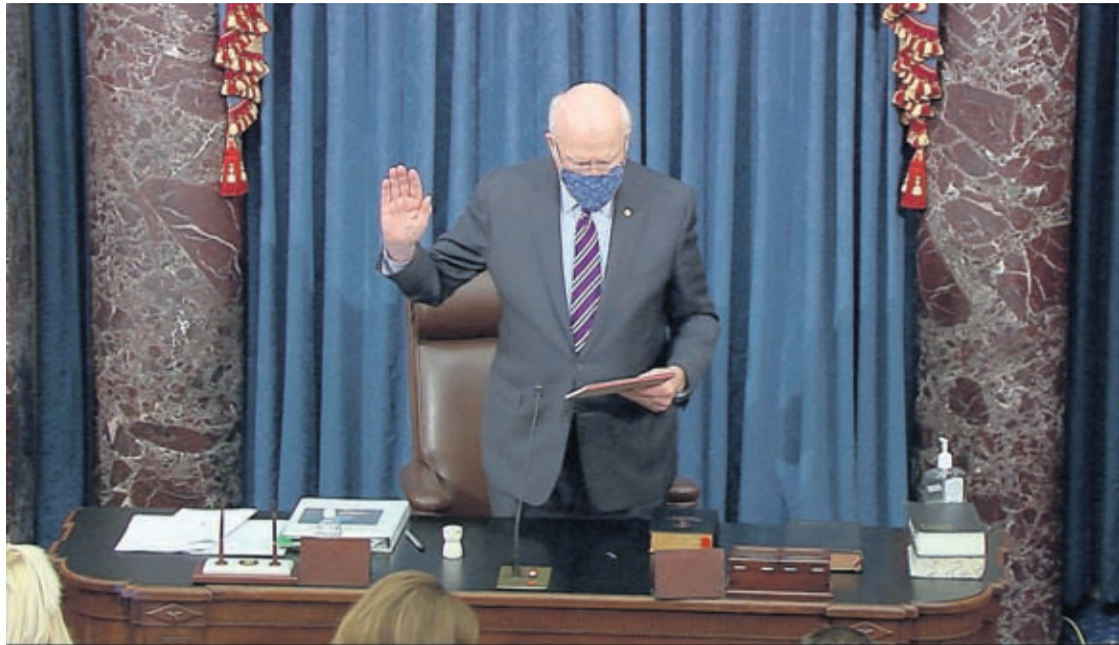
GOP largely votes against holding Trump impeachment trial

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republicans voted overwhelmingly Tuesday against moving forward with Donald Trump's historic second impeachment trial, making clear a conviction of the former president for "incitement of insurrection" is unlikely.

In a 55-45 procedural vote, the Senate set aside an objection from Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul that would have declared the impeachment proceedings unconstitutional. That means the trial on Trump's impeachment, the first ever of a former president, will begin as scheduled the week of Feb. 8. The House impeached him two weeks ago for inciting deadly riots in the Capitol on Jan. 6 when he told his supporters to "fight like hell" to overturn his election defeat.

Yet the support of 45 Republicans for declaring the trial invalid indicates that there are long odds for Trump's conviction, which would require the support of all Democrats and 17 Republicans, or two-thirds of the Senate. While most Republicans criticized Trump shortly after the attack, many of them have rushed to defend him in the trial,



In this image from video, Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., the president pro tempore of the Senate, who will preside over the impeachment trial of former President Donald Trump, swears in members of the Senate for the impeachment trial against former President Donald Trump in the Senate at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2021.

showing the former president's enduring sway over the GOP.

"If more than 34 Republicans vote against the constitutionality of the proceeding, the whole thing's dead on arrival," Paul said shortly before the vote. Paul said Democrats "probably should rest their case and present no case at all." The senators took oaths Tuesday to ensure "impartial justice" as jurors in the trial, proceedings that will test Republican loyalty to

the former president for the first time after the deadly siege at the U.S. Capitol.

Many Republican senators, including Paul, have challenged the legitimacy of the trial and questioned whether Trump's repeated demands to overturn Joe Biden's election really constitute "incitement of insurrection."

So what seemed for some Democrats like an open-and-shut case that played out for the world on live television is running into a

Republican Party that feels very different. Not only are there legal concerns, but senators are wary of crossing the former president and his legions of followers. Security remains tight at the Capitol.

On Monday, the nine House Democrats prosecuting the case against Trump carried the sole impeachment charge of "incitement of insurrection" across the Capitol in a solemn and ceremonial march along the same halls the rioters ran-

sacked three weeks ago. The lead House prosecutor, Rep. Jamie Raskin of Maryland, stood before the Senate to describe the violent events of Jan. 6 — five people died — and read the House resolution charging "high crimes and misdemeanors."

Republicans came to Trump's legal defense.

Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, asked if Congress starts holding impeachment trials of former officials, what's next: "Could we go back and try President Obama?" Besides, he suggested, Trump has already been held to account. "One way in our system you get punished is losing an election."

For Democrats the tone, tenor and length of the trial so early in Biden's presidency poses its own challenge, forcing them to strike a balance between their vow to hold Trump accountable and their eagerness to deliver on the new administration's priorities following their sweep of control of the House, Senate and White House.

Chief Justice John Roberts is not presiding at the trial, as he did during Trump's first impeachment, potentially affecting the gravitas of the proceedings. □

Associated Press

Widespread internet outages hit northeast U.S.

Associated Press

Internet users across the northeast U.S. reported widespread outages Tuesday.

In an emailed statement 90 minutes after the outage was first reported, Verizon said it was working on the problem hurting Fios service "throughout the Northeast corridor" and that some service had already been restored.

The telecom giant had reported a cut fiber in Brooklyn via Twitter, although it's not clear if that issue was responsible for the outage. Verizon didn't give any estimate in its email about when the problem would be fixed and didn't reply to questions about what caused the problem.

Comcast, another major internet service provider, said it had not observed problems with its network Tuesday.

People posting on Twitter reported having issues connecting with various online services in a geographic area stretching from Washington to Boston. That densely populated region includes key U.S. government services as well as major financial companies such as Fidelity Investments.

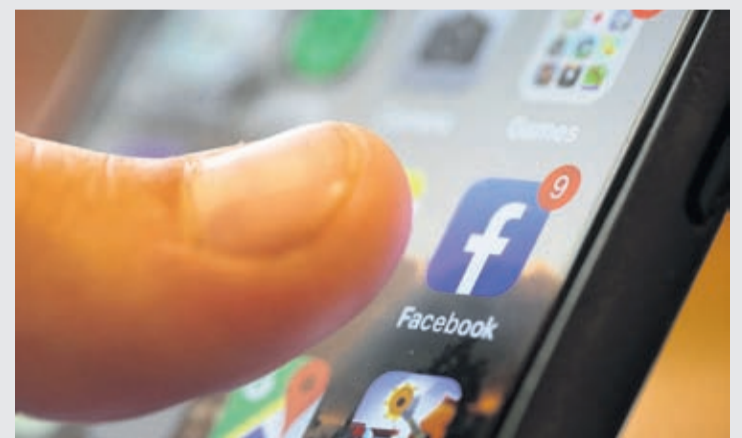
Diana Gaspar's daughter in New York couldn't connect to her online classroom because their home internet was spotty for a couple of hours in the afternoon, although her daughter was able to log

in with Gaspar's phone.

"We didn't see it as a major issue," Gaspar said. "The only inconvenience was me not having my phone." The outage affected internet and cloud providers as well as major sites such as Google and Facebook. Amazon, whose web services division powers a wide range of online services, indicated its network wasn't the cause of the problem.

It said that for about an hour and a half, ending at around 12:45 p.m. Eastern, some customers on the East Coast had problems connecting to Amazon Web Services, or AWS. It said its services were operating normally.

Google said it also had not



In this Aug. 11, 2019, file photo, an iPhone displays the Facebook app in New Orleans.

Associated Press

found issues with its own services and was investigating.

The East Coast outages began at 11:25 a.m. local time and recovery began at 12:37 p.m., according to Doug Madory, director

of internet analysis at Kentik, a network monitoring company. He reported a 12% drop in traffic volume to Verizon.

Madory said he did not yet know if other carriers were impacted. □

Foot of snow blankets parts of Midwest, disrupts travel

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A major winter storm dumped more than a foot of snow on parts of the middle of the country while another system blanketed parts of the Southwest with snow, disrupting travel for a second consecutive day Tuesday and shuttering many schools.

There were closures of several coronavirus testing sites on Monday and Tuesday in Nebraska and Iowa, and both states saw 12 to 15 inches (30.5 to 38.1 centimeters) of snow in places. At least 4 inches (10 centimeters) of snow was expected through Tuesday across most of an area stretching from central Kansas northeast to Chicago and southern Michigan. National Weather Service meteorologist Taylor Nicolaisen, who is based near Omaha, Nebraska, said up to 15 inches (38 centimeters) was reported in spots between York, Nebraska, and Des Moines, Iowa. He said it's uncommon for the region to get more than a foot of snow from a single storm, and it has been decades since some cities saw this much.

"A lot of people tend to misremember snow events — especially from when you were a kid. Everything felt like a foot of snow when you were a kid," Nicolaisen said. "The snow drifts were literally higher than your head when you were a kid, but that's because you were 2 1/2 feet tall."

The storm made travel treacherous in places as wind-whipped snow piled up. Interstates were tem-



A lone man walks along a frozen section of North Ave. beach on Lake Michigan north of downtown Chicago Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2021.

Associated Press

porarily closed in western Nebraska and in Wisconsin near Milwaukee because of crashes Tuesday morning, and scores of flights were canceled at airports across the region. Officials urged drivers to stay off the roads.

In Wisconsin, the weather service predicted up to 10 inches (25.4 centimeters) of snow could fall in the Milwaukee area, with the highest totals along Lake Michigan.

Wind gusts of 15 mph (24 kph) to 25 mph (40 kph) were reported across southern Wisconsin, creating drifting snow, reduced visibilities and complicating snow removal efforts, said Andy Boxell, a meteorologist with the weather service's office in Sullivan, Wisconsin.

"It's not only snow but it's pretty darn windy out there, so that's causing a lot blowing and drifting," he said.

In the Chicago area, between between 3 inches (7.6 centimeters) and 5 inches (12.7 centimeters) of snow had fallen by early Tuesday. Meteorologist Bett Borchardt forecast snowfall up to 8 inches (20.3 centimeters) or more in northern Illinois before the storm ends Tuesday evening.

The last comparable snowfall hit the area in November 2018, when 8.4 inches (21.3 centimeters) fell.

Many schools and businesses across the Midwest closed for a second day Tuesday as crews worked to dig out after the storm.

The city of Omaha had all 115 of its own plows and 300 contractors out Tues-

day working around the clock to clear the streets in Nebraska's biggest city, but Assistant Public Works Director Todd Pfitzer cautioned that the effort will take some time to complete. And the forecast calls for Omaha and much of eastern Nebraska to get another inch or so of snow Tuesday night.

"We are asking for a little patience. We got 12 inches of snow yesterday," Pfitzer said to the Omaha World-Herald.

In West Des Moines, Iowa, Chris Borsberry said he needed four-wheel drive to make it into the Fairfield Inn & Suites where he works, and it still took him twice as long as normal to get to the hotel. Once there, Borsberry said he had to shovel the sidewalk seven

times because it kept getting covered until the snow finally stopped.

"I got excited about that because it meant I only had one more shovel pass to do," said Borsberry, 45.

In York, Nebraska, roughly 250 semitrailers waited out the storm at the Petro truck stop alongside Interstate 80. Manager Rachael Adamson said she could see knee-high drifts.

"We haven't had this much snow in quite a few years," Adamson said.

In the South, one person was dead and at least 30 others were injured after a tornado carved a path of destruction north of Birmingham, Alabama, on Monday night, leaving the area with crumpled buildings and downed trees.

In the Southwest, more than a foot of snow fell in the mountains of Southern California, Nevada and Arizona. Icy conditions in mountains north of Los Angeles shut Interstate 5 in Tejon Pass and State Route 58 in Tehachapi Pass.

A storm buried northern Arizona in snow while sending flurries to the outskirts of Las Vegas and Phoenix. Most of Nevada was bracing for another series of powerful winter storms that could bring several feet of snow to the mountains above Lake Tahoe by Thursday.

Preliminary snowfall reports from the latest storm included 14.2 inches (36 centimeters) at the Flagstaff airport and 16 inches (40.6 centimeters) at Payson between Sunday night and late Monday, the weather service said. □

Amid pandemic, NY seizures of fentanyl and meth surge

NEW YORK (AP) — Federal authorities say the amount of fentanyl seized in drug-trafficking investigations in the state of New York continues to increase at an alarming rate, underscoring how the pandemic hasn't slowed a booming market for the potent synthetic opioid.

Seizures of methamphetamine — another highly addictive synthetic street drug blamed in a national surge in overdose deaths — also

are on a steep rise, according to Drug Enforcement Administration numbers released Tuesday.

There were 404 kilograms (890 pounds) of fentanyl seized in the state in fiscal year 2020, a 59% increase, the DEA said. The total for meth was up 214%, to 767 kilograms (1,690 pounds), the agency added.

The increases reflect an effort by Mexican drug cartels to expand their supply chains for fentanyl and

meth — manufactured in so-called "super labs" south of the border — into the U.S. Northeast despite the coronavirus health crisis, said Ray Donovan, head of the DEA's New York office.

DEA agents have seen fentanyl mixed with heroin, cocaine, meth and even marijuana, Donovan said. It's estimated that more than 60% of all drug overdose deaths in New York City involve fentanyl, he added.

"When drug traffickers introduced fentanyl to the illicit drug market, they created a monster," Donovan said.

In raids in New York City in May, agents recovered 120,000 glassine envelopes of suspected heroin mixed with fentanyl that was worth over \$1 million. The DEA said dealers stamped some of the envelopes with a twisted brand: "Coronavirus." □

Iran: Biden won't have infinite time to rejoin nuclear deal

By **NASSER KARIMI**

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran warned the Biden administration on Tuesday that it will not have an indefinite time period to rejoin the 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers. Iran also said it expects Washington to swiftly lift crippling economic sanctions that former President Donald Trump imposed on the country after pulling America out of the atomic accord in 2018, as part of what he called maximum pressure against Iran.

Trump cited Iran's ballistic missile program among other issues in withdrawing from the accord. And when the Trump administration increased sanctions, Iran gradually and publicly abandoned the deal's limits on its nuclear development. The remarks Tuesday by Iran's Cabinet spokesman Ali Rabiei are part of pressure that Tehran is trying to exert on the U.S. as it seeks to increase its leverage and get the Biden administration to quickly return to the deal. President Joe Biden has moved swiftly to dismantle Trump's legacy by signing a series of executive actions that reverse course



In this file photo released Jan. 16, 2021, by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, a missile is launched in a drill in Iran.

on a wide range of issues, including climate change and immigration. Though Biden has pledged to return to the nuclear deal, Rabiei said there has yet to be any communication between Iran and Biden on the subject. "The U.S. will not have all the time in the world," Rabiei said. "We are waiting for the official announcement of their stance as well as the lifting of sanctions."

In the meantime, he added that Iran would take a

step further away from the nuclear deal by imposing a "restriction" on inspections by the U.N. nuclear watchdog in late February.

In December, Iran's parliament approved a law under which part of the inspections that the deal had provided for would be suspended in February if European signatories to the 2015 nuclear deal do not offer relief from oil and banking sanctions.

"The window of opportunity will not be open for-

ever, either for the U.S. or the European members of the nuclear deal to fulfill their commitments," Rabiei added. Tensions between Tehran and Washington have steadily increased. During Trump's final days as president, Tehran seized a South Korean oil tanker and begun enriching uranium closer to weapons-grade levels, while the U.S. has sent B-52 bombers, the USS Nimitz aircraft carrier and a nuclear submarine into the region. Iran has also in-

creased its military drills, including firing cruise missiles as part of a naval drill in the Gulf of Oman this month.

Iran has missile capability of up to 2,000 kilometers (1,250 miles), far enough to reach archenemy Israel and U.S. military bases in the region. Last January, after the U.S. killed a top Iranian general in Baghdad, Tehran retaliated by firing a barrage of ballistic missiles at two Iraqi bases housing U.S. troops, resulting in brain concussion injuries to dozens of American soldiers.

In a separate development Tuesday, Iranian state TV said Iran successfully tested sophisticated technology for light-based data transfer known in science as entanglement-based secure quantum cryptography at a distance of 1.6 kilometer (1 mile) in the capital, Tehran. The technology is expected to allow for a secure way of sharing secret information between remote users. The country's nuclear department chief, Ali Akbar Salehi, said Iranian experts embarked on the encryption technology, which only a few in the world have mastered so far, in 2018 and hope to use it in satellite communications by 2025. □

Associated Press

Israeli military chief warns of new plans to strike Iran

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's military chief Tuesday warned the Biden administration against rejoining the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, even if it toughens its terms, adding he's ordered his forces to step up preparations for possible offensive action against Iran during the coming year.

The comments by Lt. Gen. Aviv Kochavi came as Israel and Iran both seek to put pressure on President Joe Biden ahead of his expected announcement on his approach for dealing with the Iranian nuclear program. In Iran, leaders said they would not wait indefinitely for Biden to act. The 2015 deal put curbs on Iran's nuclear program in exchange for the eas-

ing of crippling economic sanctions. Israel strongly opposed the deal, saying it did not include sufficient safeguards to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon. It welcomed the Trump administration's withdrawal from the agreement in 2018.

Biden has said he will seek to revive the deal, with some changes.

In his address, Kochavi said a return to the deal, even with some improvements, "is bad operationally and it is bad strategically." He said allowing Iran to proceed with a nuclear program would be "an unacceptable threat and will lead to nuclear proliferation across the region." Iran says its nuclear

program is for peaceful purposes only.

Kochavi said that given the threat posed by Iran, Israel's military would be prepared to attack on its own if needed.

"I instructed the army to prepare a number of operational plans in addition to the existing ones," he said. "We are taking care of these plans and will develop them during the coming year. Those who decide on carrying them out, of course, are the political leaders. But these plans have to be on the table." Just hours before Kochavi spoke against a deal, Iran prodded Biden to rejoin the atomic accord. "The window of opportunity will not be open



In this Nov. 12, 2019 file photo, Aviv Kochavi, head press conference following the killing of a senior Islamic Jihad commander in Gaza by Israel, in Tel Aviv, Israel.

Associated Press

for long," said Iran's Cabinet spokesman Ali Rabiei. Israeli officials, including Kochavi, say that Iran is in a much weaker position than in 2015 after years of sanctions by the Trump administration. They say that any new deal should

eliminate "sunset" provisions that phase out certain limits on Iran's nuclear activities, address Iran's long-range missile program and its military involvement and support for Israel's enemies across the region. □

Angry farmers storm India's Red Fort in challenge to Modi

By **SHEIKH SAALIQ**
Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — Tens of thousands of farmers marched, rode horses and drove tractors into India's capital on Tuesday, breaking through police barricades to storm the historic Red Fort — a deeply symbolic act that revealed the scale of their challenge to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government.

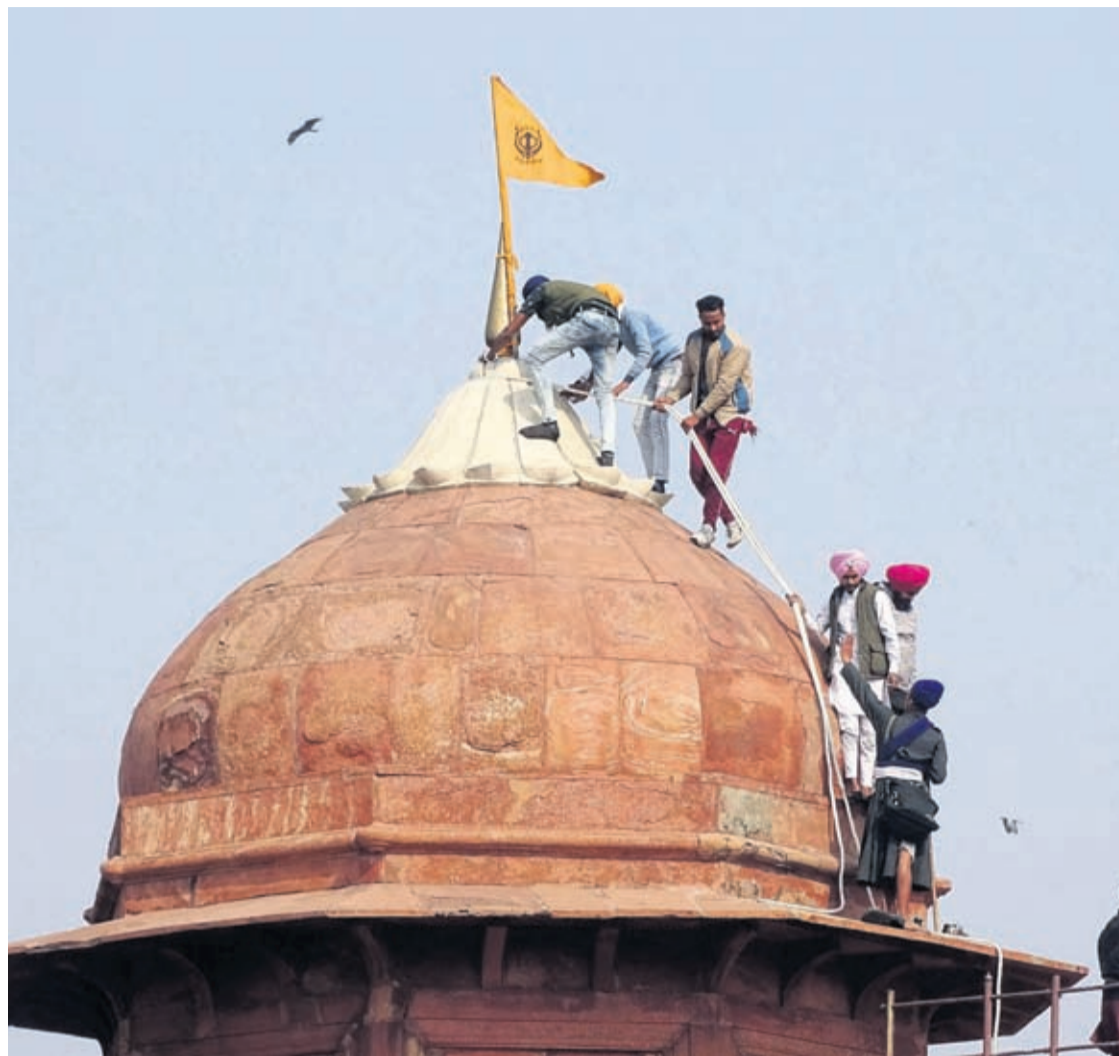
As the country celebrated Republic Day, the long-running protest turned violent, with farmers waving farm union and religious flags from the ramparts of the fort, where prime ministers annually hoist the national flag on the country's August independence holiday. Riot police fired tear gas and water cannons and set up barricades in an attempt to prevent the protesters from reaching the center of New Delhi, but the demonstrators broke through in many places.

People watched in shock as the takeover of the fort, which was built in the 17th century and served as the palace of Mughal emperors, was shown live on hundreds of news channels. Protesters, some carrying ceremonial swords, ropes and sticks, overwhelmed police.

The farmers have been staging largely peaceful protests for nearly two months, demanding the withdrawal of new laws that they say will favor large corporate farms and devastate the earnings of smaller scale farmers.

The contentious legislation has exacerbated existing resentment among farmers, who have long been seen as the heart and soul of India but often complain of being ignored by the government. As their protest has gathered strength, it has rattled the government like never before since they form the most influential voting bloc in India and are also crucial to its economy.

"We want to show Modi our strength," said Satpal Singh, a farmer who drove into the capital on a tractor



Sikhs hoist a Nishan Sahib, a Sikh religious flag, on a minaret of the historic Red Fort monument in New Delhi, India, Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2021.

along with his family of five. "We will not surrender."

Leaders of the farmers said more than 10,000 tractors joined the protest, and thousands more people marched on foot or rode on horseback while shouting slogans against Modi. At some places, they were showered with flower petals by residents who recorded the unprecedented protest on their phones. Authorities used tear gas, water cannons and placed large trucks and buses in roads to try to hold back crowd, including rows upon rows of tractors, which shoved aside concrete and steel barricades. Police said one protester died after his tractor overturned, but farmers said he was shot. Several bloodied protesters could be seen in television footage.

Farmers many of them Sikhs from Punjab and Haryana states tried to march into New Delhi in November but were stopped by police. Since then, unfazed by the winter cold and frequent rains, they have hunkered down at the edge of

the city and threatened to besiege it if the farm laws are not repealed.

"We will do as we want to. You cannot force your laws on the poor," said Manjeet Singh, a protesting farmer. The government insists that the agriculture reform laws passed by Parliament in September will benefit farmers and boost production through private investment. But the farmers fear it will leave those who hold small plots behind as big corporations win out.

The government has offered to amend the laws and suspend their implementation for 18 months. But farmers insist they will settle for nothing less than a complete repeal and plan to march on foot to Parliament on Feb. 1.

Farmers are the latest group to upset Modi's image of imperturbable dominance in Indian politics.

Since returning to power for a second term, Modi's government has been rocked by several convulsions. The economy has tanked, social strife has widened, pro-

tests have erupted against laws some deem discriminatory and his government has been questioned over its response to the coronavirus pandemic.

In 2019, the year that witnessed the first major protests against his administration, a diverse coalition of groups rallied against a contentious new citizenship law that they said discriminated against Muslims.

But the latest protests — which began in northern states that are major agricultural producers — have triggered a growing farmer rebellion that is fast spreading to other parts of the country, presenting a serious challenge to Modi's government.

Agriculture supports more than half of the country's 1.4 billion people. But the economic clout of farmers has diminished over the last three decades.

Once producing a third of India's gross domestic product, farmers now account for only 15% of the country's \$2.9 trillion economy.

More than half of farmers are in debt, with 20,638 killing themselves in 2018 and 2019, according to official records.

Devinder Sharma, an agriculture expert who has spent the last two decades campaigning for income equality for Indian farmers, said they are not only protesting the reforms but also "challenging the entire economic design of the country."

"The anger that you see is compounded anger," Sharma said. "Inequality is growing in India and farmers are becoming poorer. Policy planners have failed to realize this and have sucked the income from the bottom to the top. The farmers are only demanding what is their right."

Modi has tried to dismiss the farmers' fears as unfounded and has repeatedly accused opposition parties of agitating them by spreading rumors.

The protests overshadowed Republic Day celebrations, in which Modi oversaw a traditional lavish parade along ceremonial Rajpath boulevard displaying the country's military power and cultural diversity. Authorities shut some metro train stations, and mobile internet service was suspended in some parts of the capital, a frequent tactic of the government to thwart protests.

The parade was scaled back because of the pandemic. People wore masks and adhered to social distancing as police and military battalions marched along the route displaying their latest equipment.

Republic Day marks the anniversary of the adoption of the country's constitution on Jan. 26, 1950.

Police said the protesting farmers broke away from the approved protest routes and resorted to "violence and vandalism."

The group that organized the protest, Samyukt Kisan Morcha, or United Farmers' Front, blamed the violence on "anti-social elements" who "infiltrated an otherwise peaceful movement." □

Associated Press

Some Colombians fear ex-paramilitary leader deported from US

By **ASTRID SUÁREZ**

Associated Press

BUCARAMANGA, Colombia (AP) — On the north coast of Colombia there is anxiety over the return to the South American country of one of the most feared former paramilitary commanders: Hernán Giraldo Serna. “El Patrón” (the boss) or “El Taladro” (the drill, as he became known for sexually abusing girls in the area) stepped on Colombian soil Monday after finishing a 16-year sentence in a U.S. prison for drug trafficking earlier this month.

Giraldo, 74, was deported from the U.S. and immediately taken into custody by authorities in Colombia, where he is expected to serve time for crimes against humanity, including torture, forced displacement of people, sexual slavery and kidnapping, as well as drug trafficking.

A photo provided by Colombian immigration authorities showed Giraldo stepping onto a jet bridge wearing a surgical mask and a bulletproof vest on top of gray sweatpants. Another photo showed him walking through a building with heavily armed police ahead and behind him.

Giraldo was first arrested in Colombia for those crimes in 2006, but he was extra-



In this photo released by the Colombian Migration Press Office, ex-paramilitary commander Hernan Giraldo Serna, center, is escorted upon arrival at the El Dorado airport after being deported from the U.S. to Bogota, Colombia, Monday, Jan. 25, 2021.

ditioned to face charges in the U.S. in 2008.

While in custody in the U.S., he cooperated with Colombian authorities and in 2018, he was sentenced in his homeland to 40 years in prison after confessing to more than 700 crimes affecting 10,600 victims. That prison term was reduced to eight years thanks to his cooperation under a special “Justice and Peace” system created to try para-

military groups as part of the country’s effort to end decades of conflict.

His defense team can now request his conditional freedom for participating in that system and for showing good conduct while in prison in the U.S., but Giraldo would have to agree to continue collaborating with authorities looking into other crimes he is accused of committing between 1980 and 2006. “The time

in the United States must be counted (in Colombia), because he was extradited and sentenced there for a crime related to the Colombian armed conflict. Drug trafficking was one of the products of paramilitarism,” Magistrate Carlos Pérez, president of the Justice and Peace Chamber in Barranquilla, recently told The Associated Press. Giraldo’s criminal life began between the 1970s

and 1980s, when he went from growing coffee to growing marijuana. The business took off, and he became the leader of dozens of farmers in the north of Colombia. Soon, his illegal, peasant self-defense group began vying with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia for control of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, an isolated mountain range in the northern part of the country.

The groups’ disputes lasted until 2006, when Giraldo and other paramilitaries agreed to demobilize and face the justice system.

Colombian authorities accused Giraldo of abusing girls, ages 11 to 15, between 1982 and 2005. More than three dozen victims spoke during hearings in his case.

“I was afraid to say no to him because people say that he ordered killed anyone who did not do what he wanted,” one of the victims, who was 12 when she was raped, told authorities. The AP generally does not identify victims of sexual abuse. In 1983, Giraldo ordered his armed men to bring a 13-year-old girl to his farm to abuse her. She became pregnant with twins, one of whom died during labor due to a lack of medical attention. □

Associated Press

U.S. announces restoration of relations with Palestinians

By **EDITH M. LEDERER**

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

U.S. President Joe Biden’s administration announced Tuesday it was restoring

relations with the Palestinians and renewing aid to Palestinian refugees, a reversal of the Trump administration’s cutoff and a key element of its new support for a two-state solution to the decades-old conflict between Israelis and Palestinians.

Acting U.S. Ambassador Richard Mills made the announcement of Biden’s new approach to a high-level Security Council meeting, saying the new U.S. administration believes this “remains the best way to ensure Israel’s future as a democratic and Jewish state and the Palestinians’ legitimate aspirations for a

state of their own and to live with dignity and security.”

“In order to advance these objectives the Biden administration will restore credible U.S. engagement with Palestinians as well as Israelis,” Mills said.

“This will involve renewing U.S. relations with the Palestinian leadership and Palestinian people,” he said.

“President Biden has been clear that he intends to restore U.S. assistance programs that support economic development programs and humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people, and to take steps

to reopen diplomatic relations that were closed by the last U.S. administration,” Mills added.

He said the United States hopes to start working to slowly build confidence on both sides to create an environment to reach a two-state solution.

To pursue this goal, Mills said, “the United States will urge Israel’s government and the Palestinians to avoid unilateral steps that make a two-state solution more difficult,” such as annexation of territory, settlement activity, demolitions and providing compensation for individuals in prison for acts of terrorism. □



Two Palestinian boys play on top of piles of garbage on a rainy day in a poor neighbourhood of Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip, Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021.

Associated Press



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Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — Aruba Today is blessed with readers reaching out to us to share their love for the island. Today however it is not only about the love for Aruba but also about the love of two beautiful people for each other. Tom Erb (24) wrote to us: "We have been reading your paper the entire time we have been here. We are from Washington D.C. and have been in Aruba since January 20. I actually just proposed to my girlfriend yesterday at Boca Catalina."

Tom and his fiancée Polina Goncharova (24) live in Washington, D.C. "I work on climate change policy at the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions and Polina is a special education teacher in Washington, D.C. " They met in college at the Claremont Colleges in Claremont, California. He graduated from Pomona College in 2018 and Polina graduated from Pitzer College in 2018.

The couple chose Aruba because of its impressive Covid-19 protocols that made them feel safe when traveling and the kind and thoughtful people. "Of course, Aruba is also absolutely beautiful and we love the beaches, snorkeling with sea turtles, and perfect weather. My colleague Stephanie Gagnon recommended that we travel here and take advantage of the Workation deals. Stephanie visits Aruba regularly."

The proposal

Tom started planning the proposal when he was still in Washington, D.C. "One of the co-owners of Aruba Sunset Beach Studios, Eve, helped me



find a photographer – Sabine (@sabinegoeretz-photography). Sabine then recommended Aimara Parra (@picnicsbyaimy) to help with a beautiful picnic set-up. Sabine and Aimy were both very helpful—they found a perfect location for me, gave me advice, and flawlessly executed on the big day." The day before the proposal, he told Polina that he had made a reservation at a fancy restaurant so she would dress up. "We then starting driving and a little before the beach at Boca Catalina, I told her to close her eyes. I then parked the car, walked her down to the beach with her eyes closed, and when I told her to open her eyes I was already on a

knee proposing." The couple enjoyed a wonderful picnic and took beautiful photographs. They were even greeted with cheers from some nearby snorkelers! When they returned to Sunset Beach Studios, their room was decorated by the hotel team with hearts and other cute decorations. "It was a perfect day and Aruba provided the perfect setting: warm weather, a beautiful beach, gorgeous wildlife, and plenty of helpful and supportive people. I feel so lucky to have been able to propose to the love of my life here in Aruba. We will never forget it." To finish the sentence 'Aruba to me ...' was easy for Tom:

"Aruba to us is full of unconditional love!"

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Sharks found with dangerously high levels of heavy metals in The Caribbean

ORANJESTAD — In a new study, researchers from the non-profit research institute **Beneath the Waves (BTW)** documented and revealed alarmingly high levels of 12 heavy metals, including mercury, in the muscle tissues of large reef and tiger sharks sampled throughout The Bahamas. Published today in *Scientific Reports*, the new findings carry important implications for human health in the Greater Caribbean region, where sharks are occasionally consumed by humans, even though strictly prohibited around several island such as in the **Yarari Sanctuary (Bonaire, Saba, St. Eustatius) and around St. Maarten.**

Over the last century, human activities have rapidly accelerated the influx

of metals and metalloids entering the marine environment, posing potential risks to biodiversity and food security. Evaluating muscle tissues of 36 individual sharks from six species, the results from this study provide the first account of metal concentrations in sharks sampled in The Bahamas, a relatively pristine marine ecosystem where sharks live risk-free in a large marine protected area. Sharks are not commonly consumed by humans in The Bahamas.

As apex predators, sharks naturally bio accumulate toxins in their bodies from eating other species of fish. While the impacts on shark health remain unknown, the concentrations of metals quantified as present in the study were determined to exceed the levels

that are considered toxic for human consumption. The study also found that reef sharks, the more resident species, had higher mercury levels than tiger sharks, and that reef sharks' mercury levels increased as they matured and grew larger.

"Understanding how sharks are affected by humans is critical for ongoing conservation efforts of these ecologically and economically important species," says Dr. Oliver Shipley, the study's lead author, Research Associate at Beneath the Waves and postdoctoral researcher at The University of New Mexico. "Working in areas such as The Bahamas where shark abundance is relatively stable and healthy due to effective long-term protection, is



Photo credit: @diegocamejo (all rights reserved)

important for us to be able to establish these baseline studies. If the levels are high in The Bahamas, imagine what they could be in other parts of the world where sustainability and environmental conservation are not a priority."

"This work underscores the benefits of the Bahamas shark sanctuary for conducting important baseline studies on the health of our marine resources," says Eric Carey, Executive Director of Bahamas National Trust. "It also highlights the need for sustained conservation efforts of sharks regionally, which are important to the Bahamian economy and reef health," he added.

While the researchers in the study identified the need for future studies to understand the pathways for how these metals ultimately enter into the ma-

rine food web, the human health risks of ingesting heavy metals by consuming Caribbean sharks species are clear.

"Shark fisheries are not very prevalent in most of the Greater Caribbean region, but eating sharks can be culturally important to some nations," says study co-author Dr. Austin Gallagher, Chief Scientist at Beneath the Waves and co-founder of The Caribbean Shark Coalition. "Yet with a strong demand for shark products worldwide, this is another piece of evidence to steer people away from consuming sharks," he adds.

"Humans and oceans are intricately connected, and this work highlights the notion that science can and should guide decisions that improve ocean and human health." □

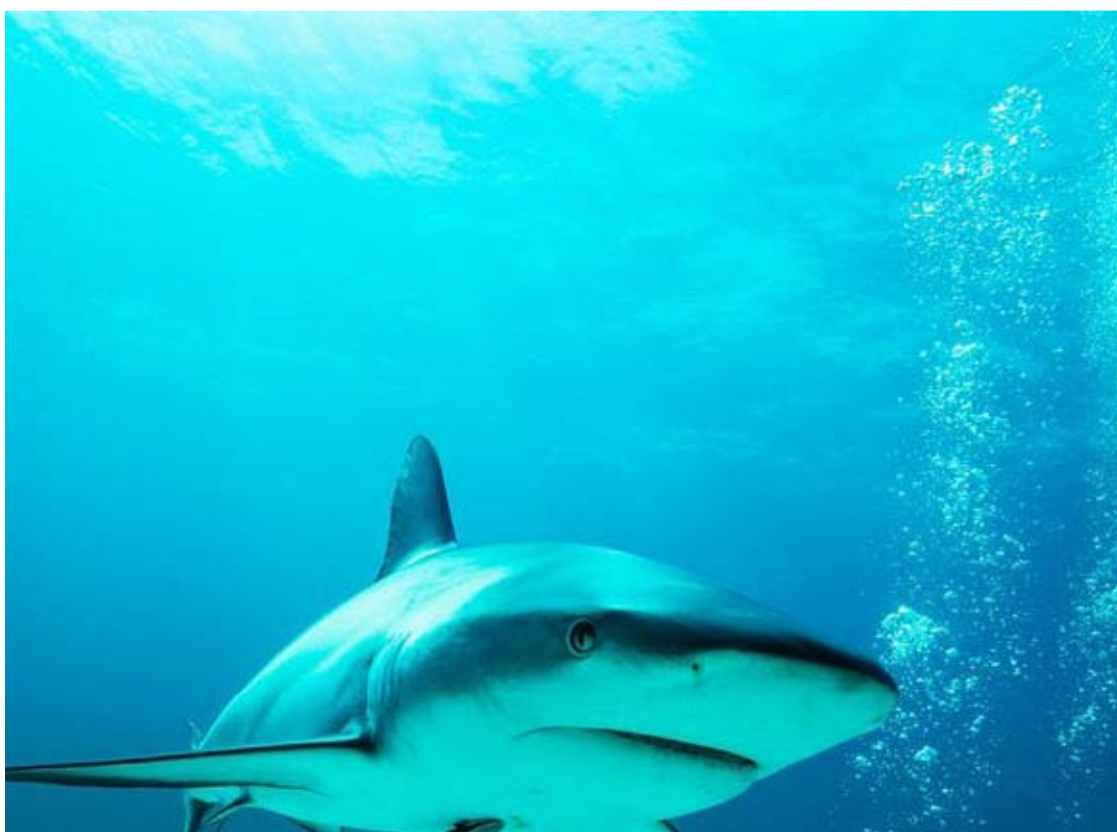


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In Latin America and the Caribbean:

**Fragile and uneven economic recovery expected, warns new UN report
COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc on the region, exacerbating deep-rooted
inequalities and pushing millions into poverty**

NEW YORK — Latin America and the Caribbean will face a fragile and uneven recovery as the COVID-19 crisis may leave lasting scars on the region's economies, according to the UN World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2021, which was launched January 25th.

The report warns that the devastating socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic will be felt for years to come unless smart investments in economic, societal and climate resilience ensure a robust and sustainable recovery of the global economy.

In 2020, the world economy shrank by 4.3 per cent, over two and half times more than during the global crisis of 2009. The modest recovery of 4.7 per cent expected in 2021 would barely offset the losses of 2020.

The pandemic has ravaged countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, exacting a heavy human toll and causing an economic contraction of historic proportions. The region's GDP declined by 8 per cent in 2020 as prolonged national lockdowns, weaker merchandise exports and a collapse in tourism undermined economic activities.

"We are facing the worst health and economic crisis in 90 years. As we mourn the growing death toll, we must remember that the choices we make now will determine our collective future," said UN Secretary-



General António Guterres, who will address the Davos Agenda event later today. "Let's invest in an inclusive and sustainable future driven by smart policies, impactful investments, and a strong and effective multilateral system that places people at the heart of all socio-economic efforts."

The report underscores that sustained recovery from the pandemic will depend not only on the size of the stimulus measures, and the quick rollout of vaccines, but also on the quality and efficacy of these measures to build resilience against future shocks.

Latin America and the Caribbean's difficult path out of the COVID-19 crisis

"While no country in the region has been spared from the fallout of the crisis, the severity of the shock has varied significantly across countries," said Hamid

Rashid, Chief of the Global Economic Monitoring Branch at the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and the lead author of the report.

Haiti, Paraguay and Uruguay, for example, have been able to contain the spread of the virus and limit the economic damage. On the other hand, Argentina, Peru, Panama as well as the Caribbean's tourism-dependent economies have been hit particularly hard, suffering double-digit contractions of GDP. Faster-than-expected rebounds in commodity prices – driven by strong industrial activity in China – and remittance inflows have provided support for many economies in South America and Central America.

The region's short-term outlook is fraught with uncertainties over the evolution of the pandemic, the rollout of vaccines and the impact of economic policy measures. The UN baseline scenario projects a modest recovery in growth of 3.8 per cent in 2021 and 2.6 per cent in 2022, with aggregate output expected to reach its pre-crisis level only by the end of 2023.

The pandemic – which came at a time when many countries in Latin America and the Caribbean were already struggling with se-

vere economic, social and political difficulties – has exposed and exacerbated deep-rooted structural inequalities, for example between formal and informal workers, and men and women.

Millions of jobs have been lost, especially in the informal sector, where most occupations are contact-intensive. Women, young people and workers with low education, who make up the bulk of employment in sectors such as retail and hospitality, were most severely affected. Job and income losses have pushed millions of people in Latin America and the Caribbean into poverty, wiping out all progress made over the past 15 years.

Investment activities across the region have taken a severe – and most likely pro-longed – hit from the pandemic. Amid falling consumer demand, temporary business closures and heightened uncertainties, firms have rolled back planned investment.

The 13 per cent decline in investment in 2020 dwarfs the drop experienced in 2009. While investment bounced back quickly after the global financial crisis, a fast recovery seems unlikely this time around amid significant and lingering uncertainties. The threat

of another lost decade – in terms of both economic growth and development progress – is looming large for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The report emphasizes that monetary and fiscal support measures have provided a lifeline to households and businesses across the region. Although many countries entered the pandemic with sizeable fiscal deficits and high public debt levels, Governments deployed considerable resources to combat the health and economic crisis. Brazil, Chile and Peru introduced the largest stimulus packages in the region, amounting to an estimated 10 - 15 per cent of GDP.

"Going forward, continued fiscal support remains critical for the recovery as national efforts of resource mobilization must be complemented by improved access to external finance," added Rashid.

Without decisive policy action, the crisis could have a lasting negative impact on the region's labour markets and investment in physical and human capital. This, in turn, could further stifle innovation and productivity growth, holding back living standards. Against this backdrop, there are growing calls for a new development model, centered on a radical transformation of production and consumption patterns.

About the World Economic Situation and Prospects 2021

The World Economic Situation and Prospects 2021 is a report produced by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), in partnership with the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and the five UN regional commissions. The UN World Tourism Organization also contributed to the report. For more information, please visit: www.bit.ly/wespreport. □



Millennial Money: 3 things to know if you're new to gig work

By **KELSEY SHEEHY**
of **NerdWallet**

Shutdowns, layoffs and salary cuts brought on by the coronavirus pandemic have left millions of Americans searching for new sources of income. Those who've recently turned to gig work may be weeks away from a financial surprise in the form of unexpected tax bills and insurance coverage fine print. "These are the two key items that most new business owners overlook," says Chris Russell, a San Diego-based certified financial planner who specializes in business owners and the self-employed.

Don't consider yourself a small-business owner? Well, let's start there.

TO THE IRS, YOU ARE A SMALL BUSINESS

Sure, you're just running food deliveries. But that simple act makes you a small business in the eyes of the IRS. And that opinion is the only one that counts when it comes to taxes.

"Basically, you're considered an independent contractor," says Garrett Watson, a senior policy analyst with the Tax Foundation, a nonprofit organization. "You don't need to



In this July 1, 2020 file photo, Instacart worker Saori Okawa loads groceries into her car for home delivery in San Leandro, Calif.

do anything super complicated. You don't need to incorporate or do anything like that." But you do need to pay taxes on any money you earn through gig work. This fact is often an unwelcome, and expensive, surprise for new gig workers. As an employee, income and payroll taxes are automatically withheld from your paycheck. That's not the case for gig workers, Russell says. "No taxes are deducted from the money you

make as a business owner," Russell says. "Meaning that you will likely owe a lot of money to the IRS when you file your returns."

A good rule of thumb: For every dollar you earn doing gig work, save 30% to put toward income and self-employment taxes. Going forward, plan to estimate and pay those taxes quarterly to avoid a penalty from the IRS.

And if you're thinking "I didn't earn much. I won't

report it. How will the IRS know?" Don't. It'll know.

EXPENSE TRACKING IS YOUR BEST FRIEND

Gig work isn't all money in the bank. You are incurring expenses, too. Keep track of those as you can likely deduct some of them and lower that tax bill we talked about a second ago.

Apps like Stride, Hurdlr and MileIQ automatically track your mileage and expenses, for free or a nominal fee, to help you calcu-

late taxes. Depending on your situation, Greiser says QuickBooks might be worth exploring.

"It is a small investment to track expenses, estimate your quarterly taxes, track your mileage and pay your quarterly taxes online," Greiser says.

You also want to investigate the nuances of what can and cannot be deducted depending on your slice of gig work, Watson says, pointing to ride-hailing services as an example. Say you drop a passenger off and drive across town to find your next ride, he says. Can you deduct the cost of gas used in between rides? (You can.) The IRS Gig Economy Tax Center is a good place to find answers to your questions.

INSURANCE CAN BE COMPLICATED

The IRS isn't the only agency that needs to know about your new income stream. Your insurance agent needs to be clued in, too. Not disclosing your work could get you dropped from your policy in some cases. And, beyond that, your insurance agent can help you understand what aspects of your gig work are covered. □

PepsiCo goes Beyond Meat in new partnership

By **DEE-ANN DURBIN**
AP Business Writer

PepsiCo and Beyond Meat are creating a joint venture to develop snacks and drinks made from plant-based proteins.

The companies didn't reveal what kinds of products they will make Tuesday, saying they're still in development.

But the collaboration sent Beyond Meat's shares to their largest single-day gain since they began trading in 2019, jumping by more than \$62 each to \$221. Pepsi's shares remained flat.

The joint venture gives Pepsi access to one of the leading plant-based meat

companies at a time when consumers are increasingly cutting back on meat consumption and looking for healthier, more sustainable foods. Beyond Meat's burgers, sausages and chicken, which are made from pea protein, are sold worldwide, including at Starbucks in China and Pizza Hut in the U.S.

Beyond Meat gets access to Pepsi's distribution system and broad product line. Pepsi, in addition to drinks, makes Fritos, Cheetos and Tostitos, as well as Matador beef jerky.

It's a shot in the arm for El Segundo, California-based Beyond Meat, which had been strug-

gling to convince investors of its growth opportunities as competition increased. Beyond Meat shares plummeted in November after retail sales slowed and McDonald's hinted that it might work with another supplier on a new plant-based burger for the U.S. market.

Food companies are increasingly jumping into the plant-based space. In 2019, Chobani introduced coconut milk-based yogurt and Nestle brought out plant-based burgers and ground meat. Meat giant Tyson Foods, which used to own a stake in Beyond Meat, now has its own line of plant-based



In this June 27, 2019, file photo a meatless burger patty called Beyond Burger made by Beyond Meat is displayed at a grocery store in Richmond, Va.

Associated Press

meats. Consumers are eager to try those products. U.S. sales of plant-based meat jumped 45% in the 52 weeks ending Jan. 16; traditional meat sales rose 19% in the same period, according to NielsenIQ, a

data firm. Total U.S. sales of plant-based proteins — including products like almond milk and plant-based eggs — jumped 19% over the last year, outpacing the 14% increase in all food sales. □

1st private space crew paying \$55M each to fly to station

By **MARCIA DUNN**

**AP Aerospace Writer
CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.**

(AP) — The first private space station crew was introduced Tuesday: Three men who are each paying \$55 million to fly on a SpaceX rocket.

They'll be led by a former NASA astronaut now working for Axiom Space, the Houston company that arranged the trip for next January.

"This is the first private flight to the International Space Station. It's never been done before," said Axiom's chief executive and president Mike Suffredini, a former space station program manager for NASA.

While mission commander Michael Lopez-Alegria is well known in space circles, "the other three guys are just people who want to be able to go to space, and we're providing that opportunity," Suffredini told The Associated Press.

The first crew will spend eight days at the space station, and will take one or two days to get there aboard a SpaceX Dragon



This combination of photos provided by Axiom Space in January 2021 shows, from left, Larry Connor, Michael Lopez-Alegria, Mark Pathy and Eytan Stibbe. On Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2021, Axiom announced they will be the first private space station crew, a year ahead of the planned launch. **Associated Press**

capsule following liftoff from Cape Canaveral. Russia has been in the off-the-planet tourism business for years, selling rides to the International Space Station since 2001. Other space companies like Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic and Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin plan to take paying customers on up-and-down flights lasting just minutes. These trips — much more affordable with seats going

for hundreds of thousands versus millions — could kick off this year. Axiom's first customers include Larry Connor, a real estate and tech entrepreneur from Dayton, Ohio, Canadian financier Mark Pathy and Israeli businessman Eytan Stibbe, a close friend of Israel's first astronaut Ilan Ramon, who was killed in the space shuttle Columbia accident in 2003. "These guys are all very in-

involved and doing it for kind of for the betterment of their communities and countries, and so we couldn't be happier with this makeup of the first crew because of their drive and their interest," Suffredini said. Each of these first paying customers intends to perform science research in orbit, he said, along with educational outreach. Lopez-Alegria, a former space station resident

and spacewalking leader, called the group a "collection of pioneers."

Tom Cruise was mentioned last year as a potential crew member; NASA top officials confirmed he was interested in filming a movie at the space station. There was no word Tuesday on whether Cruise will catch the next Axiom flight. Suffredini declined to comment.

Each of the private astronauts had to pass medical tests and will get 15 weeks of training, according to Suffredini. The 70-year-old Connor will become the second-oldest person to fly in space, after John Glenn's shuttle flight in 1998 at age 77. He'll also serve under Lopez-Alegria as the capsule pilot. Axiom plans about two private missions a year to the space station. It also is working to launch its own live-in compartments to the station beginning in 2024. This section would be detached from the station once it's retired by NASA and the international partners, and become its own private outpost. □

Studies extend hopes for antibody drugs against COVID-19

By **MARILYNN MARCHIONE**
AP Chief Medical Writer

New results extend hopes for drugs that supply antibodies to fight COVID-19, suggesting they can help keep patients out of the hospital and possibly prevent illness in some uninfected people.

Eli Lilly said Tuesday that a two-antibody combo reduced the risk of hospitalizations or death by 70% in newly diagnosed, non-hospitalized COVID-19 patients at high risk of serious illness because of age or other health conditions. All 10 deaths that occurred in the study were among those receiving placebo rather than the antibodies. Separately, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc. said partial results from an ongoing study suggest its drug combo completely prevented symptomatic infections in housemates of someone with COVID-19.

Importantly, the drug was given as multiple shots rather than through an IV. The need for an infusion has greatly limited the use of antibody drugs in the pandemic because of health care shortages.

None of the new results have been published or reviewed by other scientists, and the Regeneron ones were based on only one quarter of patients in its study and were not a planned early analysis. □



This photo provided by Eli Lilly shows the drug bamlanivimab. **Associated Press**

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By Dave Green

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Goade becomes first Native American to win Caldecott Medal

By **HILLEL ITALIE**
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Illustrator Michaela Goade became the first Native American to win the prestigious Randolph Caldecott Medal for best children's picture story, cited for "We Are Water Protectors," a celebration of nature and condemnation of the "black snake" Dakota Access Pipeline. "I am really honored and proud," the 30-year-old Goade told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "I think it's really important for young people and aspiring book makers and other creative people to see this." Tae Keller's chapter book "When You Trap a Tiger," in which a young Korean-American explores her identity and her heritage through her grandmother's stories, won the John Newbery Medal for the outstanding children's work overall of 2020. Keller, who was raised in Hawaii and now lives in New York, drew upon Korean folklore and family history for "When You Trap a Tiger," also named the year's best Asian/Pacific American literature. "The book really did grow from the recognition of my grandmother as this full person with so much life and so many stories to tell," Keller,

27, told the AP. "I also did a great deal of research into Korean folklore and Korean history. There was a lot I heard growing up, but I had never had a fuller, deeper understanding of it all. I think that was the most rewarding part of writing this book." Jacqueline Woodson, whose previous honors include a National Book Award, won her third Coretta Scott King Award for best work by a Black author for "Before the Ever After." And a tribute to Aretha Franklin, "R-E-S-P-E-C-T," received the King award for best illustration. The book was written by Carole Boston Weatherford, with images by Frank Morrison. "We Are Water Protectors," written by Carole Lindstrom, was conceived in response to the planned construction of the Dakota pipeline through Standing Rock Sioux territory. Goade, a member of the Tlingit and Haida Indian tribes in Southeast Alaska, was sent a copy of the manuscript through her agent in 2018 and responded immediately to its political message and message of water as a universal force. "I love how it balanced lyricism and poetry with a powerful message," says Goade, who used every-



This cover image released by Roaring Brook Press shows "We Are Water Protectors," written by Carol Lindstrom and illustrated by Michaela Goade.

thing from watercolors to Gouache paint as she conjured moods ranging from the water's sensual blue waves to the harsh black of the snake/pipeline and the burning red of the snake's tongue. The Newbery medal was established in 1922, the Caldecott in 1937. Goade, whose other books include "Encounter," is the first Native American to win in either category. Her next book is the picture story "I Sang You Down from the Stars," a collaboration with

author Tasha Spillett-Sumner that comes out in April. Goade's win was widely cheered on social media, including by Lindstrom, who tweeted to the illustrator: "I have no words to describe how proud of you I am. I love you so so much. You are so extremely talented and just an amazing person inside and out." Dr. Debbie Reese, founder of the educational resource American Indians in Children's Literature, noted that previous Caldecott awards had gone to stories

about Natives that were created by non-Natives, citing Paul Goble's "The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses" and Gerald McDermott's "Arrow to the Sun." "What I see in this year's winners is a respect for Native writing," Reese told the AP. "We are so much more than what the mainstream understands, and slowly — and hopefully surely as we move into the future — editors and readers are coming to understand who we were, and who we are." Daniel Nayeri's "Everything Sad Is Untrue (a true story)" won the Michael L. Printz Award for best young adult novel, and Mildred D. Taylor, known for "Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry" among other works, was given a "Literature Legacy" award. Kekla Magoon, who has written or co-written "X: A Novel" and "How It Went Down," won a lifetime achievement award for young adult books. Ernesto Cisneros' "Efrén Divided" won the Pura Belpré prize for outstanding Latinx author. Raul Gonzalez's "Vamos! Let's Go Eat" received the Belpré award for illustration. The Stonewall Book Award for best LGBT literature was given to Archa Shrivastav for "We Are Little Feminists: Families." □

Jane Fonda to receive Golden Globes' Cecil B. DeMille Award



Actress Jane Fonda appears at the 71st international film festival in Cannes, southern France, on May 12, 2018. The Golden Globes will bestow the Cecil B. DeMille Award to Fonda during the 78th annual awards show next month.

Associated Press

By **JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.**
AP Entertainment Writer
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jane Fonda cemented herself into Hollywood allure as a chameleonlike actor and

social activist, and now the Golden Globes will honor her illustrious career with its highest honor. Fonda will receive the Cecil B. DeMille Award during

the 78th annual awards ceremony on Feb. 28, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association announced Tuesday. A member of one of America's most distinguished acting families, Fonda has captivated and inspired fans along with critics in such films as "Klute" and "Coming Home." Fonda, the daughter of Oscar winner Henry Fonda and sister of Peter Fonda, made an impact off-screen by creating organizations to support women's equality and prevent teen pregnancy and improve adolescent health. She released a workout video in 1982 and was active on behalf of liberal political causes. In a statement, HFPA Presi-

dent Ali Sar applauded the Golden Globe winner's decorated career and her "unrelenting activism." "Her undeniable talent has gained her the highest level of recognition," Sar said of Fonda. "While her professional life has taken many turns, her unwavering commitment to evoking change has remained." The DeMille Award is given annually to an "individual who has made an incredible impact on the world of entertainment." Past recipients include Tom Hanks, Jeff Bridges, Oprah Winfrey, Morgan Freeman, Meryl Streep, Barbra Streisand, Sidney Poitier and Lucille Ball. Fonda, 83, has been nominated for five Academy

Awards and won two for the thriller "Klute" and the compassionate anti-war drama "Coming Home." She had other prominent films including "The China Syndrome," "The Electric Horseman" with Robert Redford, and "9 to 5" with Lily Tomlin and Dolly Parton. She stars in the Netflix television series "Grace & Frankie." □

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U.S. Olympic swim trials split into 2 meets because of COVID

By PAUL NEWBERRY
AP Sports Writer

The U.S. Olympic swimming trials will be split into two meets, a striking change designed to provide safer conditions on the pool deck in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.

USA Swimming announced Tuesday that a Wave I meet of lower-ranked swimmers qualifying for the trials will be held on June 4-7.

The top finishers will advance to the main Wave II meet on June 13-20 — the already scheduled dates for the trials — to determine who represents the U.S. at the Tokyo Games.

Both meets will take place in a temporary pool set up inside the CHI Health Center arena in Omaha, Nebraska, the trials' host for the fourth straight time.

The change is designed to reduce overcrowding on the pool deck, an adjacent warmup pool and the athlete seating areas. The top 41 seeded swimmers in each event will automatically qualify for Wave II.

As of last week, 1,305 athletes had qualified for the Olympic trials since the window opened Nov. 28, 2018. The meet, initially set for last summer, was delayed a year after the Tokyo Olympics were postponed because of the pandemic,



In this July 1, 2016, file photo, Elizabeth Beisel, left, and Missy Franklin start the women's 200-meter backstroke semifinal at the U.S. Olympic swimming trials in Omaha, Neb.

Associated Press

which has claimed more than 400,000 American lives and more than 2 million victims around the world.

"Our number one priority was to find a way to host trials in the safest possible environment while also giving the athletes the best opportunity to succeed," said Mike Unger, USA Swimming's chief operating officer.

Instead of limiting the meet to only the top-seeded swimmers, the governing body preferred a format that provided valuable experience to those who may be contenders in future years.

"While selecting the Olympic team for Tokyo is a critical goal for the trials, it is important to note that the experience gained at trials by some of the lower-seeded athletes has historically provided a great experience for future Olympic trials (and games), which fueled our desire to host two events," Unger said in a statement.

USA Swimming reviewed the last five Olympic trials going back to 2000 to determine the the lowest-seeded swimmers to qualify for an event final. Morgan Scroggy, seeded 41st, qualified for the 200-meter

backstroke final at the 2008 trials.

Erin Phenix was the lowest-seeded swimmer to earn a spot on the Olympic team. She was 38th when she qualified as a relay swimmer for the 2000 Sydney Games by finishing sixth in the 100 free final.

Based on that data, USA Swimming will adjust the current trials standard in each event to the current 41st-seeded time. Athletes who have met or bettered that time will automatically advance to Wave II.

The newly adjusted standards also factor in a possible growth of 50-60 ath-

letes per event in the four months leading into the Olympic Trials, generating a final field of approximately 750 total athletes in the Wave II meet.

Swimmers who do not meet the Wave II time standards before May 30 will compete in the Wave I meet. The top two finishers in each event will advance to Wave II, which will ultimately determine the U.S. team.

Local officials supported the decision to split the meet into two events. They are working with USA Swimming and the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee to come up with safety guidelines for the meet. It has not been determined how many fans will be allowed in the 17,000-seat arena.

Josh Todd, executive director of the Omaha Sports Commission, said the new format "provides us with the opportunity to stage not one, but two marquee events in the city of Omaha."

"We are working closely with the CHI Health Center team and are committed to delivering a safe and memorable experience for every athlete coming to Omaha to chase their dreams and to compete for a spot on the U.S. Olympic team." Todd said. □

Washington's King 1st Black female assistant position coach

By The Associated Press

Washington promoted Jennifer King to assistant running backs coach Tuesday, making her the first Black female assistant position coach in the NFL.

She is the second woman in league history to be an assistant position coach after Tampa Bay's assistant defensive line coach Lori Locust. King spent the 2020 season as a full-year coaching intern under Ron Rivera and worked with running backs coach Randy Jordan. "The sky is truly the limit for her," Rivera said. "She got the chance to experience not only the in-season work that goes into being a full-time coach in this league but also the

countless hours that are spent preparing in the off-season, as well.

"She demonstrated all of the qualities that are needed to work full time on my staff. She is a hard worker, a great communicator and a quality person. Coach King is always eager to learn and has shown tremendous growth since starting here last season."

King previously interned for Rivera with the Carolina Panthers and has also been an assistant at Dartmouth College and for the Arizona Hotshots of the Alliance of American Football. "I am very pleased to have coach King back to assist me full time in the running backs room," Jordan said.

"She was extremely helpful last year in seeing the game from a different perspective, and she was a tremendous communicator in our room. I look forward to continuing to collaborate as we move forward in our program and as she moves forward in her coaching career."

Washington's playoff game against the now-Super Bowl-bound Buccaneers was the first NFL playoff game to have a female coach on each sideline. Tampa Bay had two: Locust and assistant strength and conditioning coach Maral Javadifar, and coach Bruce Arians called women in coaching "the wave of the future."



Tampa Bay Buccaneers assistant strength/conditioning coach Maral Javadifar, left, talking with Washington full-year coaching intern Jennifer King, right, following the conclusion of an NFL wild-card playoff football game, Saturday, Jan. 9, 2021, in Landover, Md. Tampa Bay won 31-23.

Associated Press

"This game, it's a tremendous game," Rivera said. "It should be open to everybody in terms of opportunities to play, opportunities

to coach or opportunities to lead the organization. I think that's an important message that the league is putting out there." □

The lack of wins starting to pile up for Tony Finau

By **DOUG FERGUSON**

AP Golf Writer

At least it can't be said Tony Finau is in a slump. He hasn't won enough for that.

And that might be his biggest burden.

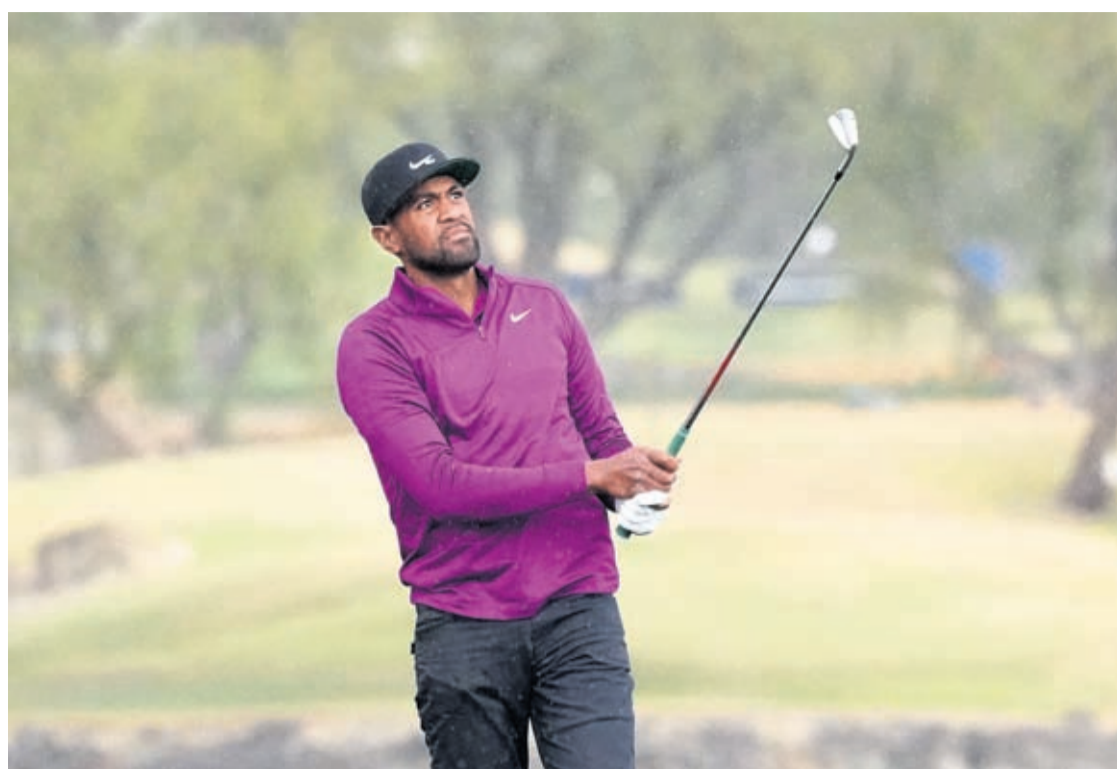
In his seventh year on the PGA Tour, in 168 tournaments, his only victory was in March of 2016 at the Puerto Rico Open, the same week the top 64 in the world were in Texas for the Match Play. Everyone in golf should know this because it gets mentioned every time Finau is in contention, like he was last week in the California desert, or when he's a captain's pick, like he was for the Ryder Cup in France and the Presidents Cup in Australia.

He looks to be built for greatness. Finau is 6-foot-4 with a wingspan measured at 6-foot-8. He is capable of generating as much ball speed as Bryson DeChambeau without the grunts or the protein shakes.

Finau has been among the top 50 in the world for the last three years, reaching as high as No. 9 toward the end of 2018. He has amassed more than \$20 million in PGA Tour earnings. He has fit in nicely among America's finest in the last two team competitions.

So it's not a slump. That belongs to others in the field this week at the Farmers Insurance Open.

Jordan Spieth hasn't won since he captured the third leg of the career Grand Slam in the 2017 British Open. Rickie Fowler is approaching the two-year anniversary of his last win



Tony Finau watches his approach shot from the 18th fairway during the third round of The American Express golf tournament on the Pete Dye Stadium Course at PGA West, Saturday, Jan. 23, 2021, in La Quinta, Calif.

and is out of the top 50 for the first time in seven years. Francesco Molinari tied for eighth last week. That was his first top 10 since he lost a two-shot lead on the back nine of the 2019 Masters, when he was No. 7 in the world. The British Open champion from 2018 is now at No. 110.

Slumps are for those who have a history of winning. Finau should want to trade places.

Instead, he heads from PGA West after another close call to Torrey Pines for what he sees as another opportunity. He is not easily discouraged, and that requires a different kind of strength.

The American Express was the fourth time he has had

at least a share of the 54-hole lead and failed to win. Among the more crushing losses was the Waste Management Phoenix Open last year, when Webb Simpson birdied the last two holes to force a playoff and then made another birdie to win.

There also was the HSBC Champions in Shanghai, where Finau took a three-shot lead into the final round. Xander Schauffele was one shot behind with two holes to play when he made one only four birdies on the final day at the tough par-3 17th, matched birdies with Finau on the par-5 closing hole and won with a two-putt birdie in the playoff.

On Sunday at PGA West,

Finau was tied for the lead and began with two quick birdies. He dropped back by hitting 3-iron into the water on the par-5 11th and missing a 3-foot par putt. He shot 68 and finished four behind Si Woo Kim, who shot 64 to hold off Patrick Cantlay and his 61.

It's always someone else, and it only raises the same question. One victory in 168 chances with all that talent. Why?

The next one — there will be a next one, right? — won't change that.

Charles Howell III has been dealing with it his entire career. Even when he won the RSM Classic at Sea Island at the end of 2018, the chatter inevitably got around to why he hadn't won more

than three times.

It wasn't a lack of effort by Howell, and it's not by Finau. He has had six runner-up finishes and 35 top 10s since his lone playoff victory in Puerto Rico.

"We would have thought he would have won his second title by now," Boyd Summerhays, his swing coach, told Golf Channel on Sunday. "You would have thought that. The fans would have thought that, which is why, behind the scenes, I've never seen him work as hard as he has the last year."

Finau left the desert encouraged, the opposite of what it would seem.

He said he usually has a pretty good sense when he walks off the final hole, and someone else is headed for the trophy presentation, how much a loss is going to sting. This wasn't one of them. He felt he was headed in the right direction.

It's not that the losses are mounting, because in no other sport does greatness have such a high rate of losing.

The rate of winning is what stands out for Finau.

And as Summerhays said, "Every tournament that goes by makes it more difficult. There's no other way to look at it." Finau conceded it gets tiring answering questions about when he will win again. For him, it only adds to the challenge, which already has proven to be stout. "I'm going to have a lot of opportunities to win tournaments. That's to me what the exciting thing is," he said. □

Associated Press

Boston Marathon set for Oct. 11 if state allows

By **KYLE HIGHTOWER**

AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — The 125th edition of the Boston Marathon will be held Oct. 11 if road races are allowed to take place under Massachusetts' COVID-19 restrictions, race officials said Tuesday.

The Boston Athletic Association said it has "cautious optimism" the event will take place. Last year's Boston Marathon was postponed from April to September and ultimately canceled two months later, the first time since 1897 that the world's oldest and most prestigious annual

26.2-mile race was not run.

Plans for this year's race are pending approval from the eight cities and towns that are part of the marathon route.

"Massachusetts continues to fight COVID-19 and distribute vaccines across the commonwealth, and with brighter days ahead, we are looking forward to getting back to a new normal in 2021," Gov. Charlie Baker, a Republican, said in a statement. "We will continue to work with local partners and the BAA to monitor the situation and remain hopeful that the 125th Boston Marathon can take place this

October."

Road races are not permitted until the state's reopening plan enters Phase 4. Massachusetts reverted to Phase 3 in December.

A total of 15,972 people ran a virtual race last year, completing the 26.2-mile distance on their own over a 10-day period. In 1918, the marathon format was modified to a relay due to World War I; the 2013 race was stopped when two bombs exploded at the finish line, several hours after the winners had finished but while many recreational runners were still on the course. □